



Montana Public Service Commission
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**PSC TO HOLD HEARING DECEMBER 20 IN HELENA ON
INITIAL RATES OF QWEST LONG-DISTANCE AFFILIATE**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a hearing December 20 in Helena concerning the initial tariff filing by Qwest Communications Corporation (QCC) to implement long distance service in Montana. QCC is an affiliate of local telephone company Qwest Corporation that was created to provide long distance service to Montanans who are not customers of Qwest's local telephone service.

The hearing will begin at 9:30 am, Monday, December 20, in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue.

The QCC rates in this filing are currently effective on an interim basis. Qwest and the Montana Consumer Counsel, which represents the interests of residential and small business customers before the PSC, have asked the PSC to adopt a stipulation they entered into under which both Qwest and the Consumer Counsel agreed that the PSC should issue an order that approves the interim rates on a final basis.

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